Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric comprising the steps of:

a. providing a first thermoplastic polymer,

b. providing a second thermoplastic polymer, wherein said second thermoplastic polymer is dissimilar to said first thermoplastic polymer,

c. providing a third thermoplastic polymer, wherein said third thermoplastic polymer is dissimilar to said first thermoplastic polymer,

d. forming said first thermoplastic polymer into a first continuous filament precursor web,

e. forming said second thermoplastic polymer into a second continuous filament precursor web,

f. forming said third thermoplastic polymer into a third continuous filament precursor web, wherein said third continuous filament precursor web is positioned between said first and second continuous filament precursor webs, and

g. consolidating said first, second, and third continuous filament precursor webs by application of elevated temperature and pressure to form a nonwoven laminate fabric, wherein said third continuous filament precursor web alone acts as a bonding agent ~~to facilitate~~ for said consolidating step.

Claim 2 (original). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 1, wherein said first thermoplastic polymer is polyethylene.

Claim 3 (original). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 1, wherein said second thermoplastic polymer is polypropylene.

Claim 4 (previously presented). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 1, wherein said third thermoplastic polymer is a polypropylene blend.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (original). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 1, wherein said consolidation of said first, second, and third precursor webs is a calendaring process, wherein said calendaring process comprises a heated embossed roll and a heated smooth roll; wherein said heated embossed roll is of a higher temperature than said heated smooth roll.

Claim 7 (currently amended). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 6, wherein said first precursor web ~~comprised~~ comprises polyethylene and is in direct contact with said smooth roll.

Claim 8 (currently amended). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric comprising the steps of:

a. providing a first thermoplastic polymer,

b. providing a second thermoplastic polymer, wherein said second thermoplastic polymer is dissimilar to said first thermoplastic polymer,

c. providing a third thermoplastic polymer, wherein said third thermoplastic polymer is dissimilar to said first thermoplastic polymer,

d. forming said first thermoplastic polymer into a first continuous filament precursor web,

e. forming said second thermoplastic polymer into a second continuous filament precursor web,

f. forming said third thermoplastic polymer into a third continuous filament precursor web,

g. juxtaposing said first continuous filament precursor web in a face-to-face relationship with said third filament precursor web, and said second continuous filament precursor web in a face-to-face relationship with said third filament precursor web, and

h. consolidating said first, second, and third continuous filament precursor ~~web~~ webs by application of elevated temperature and pressure to form a nonwoven laminate fabric~~, so that~~ comprising tackifying said third filament precursor web alone effective to provide ~~facilitates~~ consolidation of said first, second, and third continuous filament precursor webs.

Claim 9 (withdrawn). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric comprising the steps of:

a. providing a first polyolefin polymer,

b. providing a second polyolefin polymer, wherein said second polyolefin polymer is dissimilar to said first polyolefin polymer,

c. extruding said first and second polymers from separate orifices of the same spinneret;

d. collecting said first and second polymers forming a first continuous filament precursor web,

e. collecting said first and second polymers forming a second continuous filament precursor web, wherein said second continuous filament precursor web is formed directly onto the surface of said first continuous filament precursor web, and

f. consolidating said first and said second continuous filament precursor webs by application of elevated temperature and pressure to form a nonwoven laminate fabric.

Claim 10 (withdrawn). A method for forming a nonwoven laminate fabric, comprising the steps of:

a. providing a first thermoplastic polymer,

b. providing a second thermoplastic polymer, wherein said second thermoplastic polymer is dissimilar to said first thermoplastic polymer,

c. extruding said first and second polymers from separate orifices of the same spinneret;

d. collecting said first and second polymers forming a first continuous filament precursor web,

e. collecting said first and second polymers forming a second continuous filament precursor web,

f. juxtaposing said first continuous filament precursor web and said second continuous filament precursor web in face to face relationship, and

g. consolidating said first and said second continuous filament precursor web by application of elevated temperature and pressure to form a nonwoven laminate fabric.

Claim 11 (withdrawn). A soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric, comprising:

a first continuous filament precursor web formed from a first polymer;

a second continuous filament precursor web formed from a second thermoplastic polymer dissimilar to said first thermoplastic polymer; and

a third continuous filament precursor web formed from a third thermoplastic polymer dissimilar to said first thermoplastic polymer, wherein said third continuous filament precursor web is positioned between said first and second continuous filament precursor webs;

wherein said first, second, and third continuous filament precursor webs are consolidated by application of elevated temperature and pressure to form a nonwoven laminate fabric, wherein said third continuous filament precursor web acts as a bonding agent to facilitate consolidation of said webs.

Claim 12 (withdrawn). A soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 11, wherein said first thermoplastic polymer is polyethylene.

Claim 13 (withdrawn). A soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 11, wherein said second thermoplastic polymer is polypropylene.

Claim 14 (withdrawn). A soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 11, wherein said third thermoplastic polymer is a polypropylene blend.

Claim 15 (new). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 6, wherein said consolidation comprises bonding 10 to 40 percent of overall surface area of the first, second, and third continuous filament precursor webs.

Claim 16 (new). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 1, wherein said third continuous filament precursor web is comprised of a fiber material selected from the group consisting of a Ziegler-Natta-based thermoplastic polymer, metallocene-based thermoplastic polymer, a random copolymer, and a tackifier-containing polymer composition.

Claim 17 (new). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 8, wherein said consolidation comprises bonding 10 to 40 percent of overall surface area of the first, second, and third continuous filament precursor webs.

Claim 18 (new). A method for forming a soft, durable nonwoven laminate fabric as in claim 8, wherein said third continuous filament precursor web is comprised of a fiber material selected from the group consisting of a Ziegler-Natta-based thermoplastic polymer, metallocene-based thermoplastic polymer, a random copolymer, and a tackifier-containing polymer composition.